

lights; and probably just before that, he swept the floor.

That is what it is about. This is not about a group of people that works 40 hours a week. It is about people that nobody ever heard of. Nobody ever knows them. They never see their name in the paper. They do not work 40 hours a week. They work 50, 60, 70 hours. They work because they love, and they work because of their faith.

Finally, I wanted say that we need to be careful. I especially say this to my Democratic colleagues: We dismiss and we discourage people of faith in this country with our words and our actions sometimes; and we almost, to a point, put out a sign that says you are not welcome in our party.

Vote against this substitute. Vote for this bill.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT).

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I certainly do not want to discourage people of faith. I want to encourage them. But that is not what this debate is about.

In fact, I am more confused now than I was before after listening to the colloquy between the sponsor of the bill and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HASTERT). We are going to work on this in conference. We are going to work on States' right. I thought we did that some 200 years ago. Whatever happened to States' rights?

It seems that devolution, that fundamental principle of the Reagan revolution is no longer operative.

I look at my friends on the other side of the aisle. The Contract with America which spoke so clearly about local control seems to have been discarded. Well, it is clear to me that States' rights in this Chamber are no longer in vogue today or with this administration, at least on this particular issue.

Remember, last week we learned that the Salvation Army had lobbied the White House for a regulation exempting them from State and local laws to protect employees from discrimination based on sexual orientation. Then there was an uproar, and that effort was quickly abandoned.

Well, they will not need a regulation if this bill becomes law today as it is presently drafted because religious organizations will be able to evade State and local laws simply by receiving a Federal grant. They will be free to deny a job to qualified workers. We must not let this happen.

Support the substitute. Defend States' rights and defeat the underlying bill.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER).

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the sponsors and advocates of this bill. As we look around our communities, it is undeniable the best homeless facilities, drug treatment, even job training courses are not city and State run. They are run by churches and synagogues.

The supporters of this bill are right. We ought not rule out a compassionate program simply because it is motivated by a calling from God. I do not support those who believe that this bill is the handiwork of the radical right. This is the product of a very real desire to replicate the great works that are quietly and effectively working all throughout this Nation.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) are decent and caring individuals who seek to do what is best.

I will vote yes on this bill if we can make a much improved bill and perfect it further.

First, let us restate what is the agreed-upon purpose of bill. Today, we vote to fund secular services in a non-religious environment, no preaching, no proselytizing. It is right there in the bill. The bill, to its credit, makes that very clear. There is no reason to want to discriminate in hiring of a typing teacher or an after school art teacher. None of us would support such discrimination in these purely nonreligious environments.

We should guarantee that this discrimination does not take place.

To be clear, I strongly support Title 7 language of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. There is no reason to extend this protection to the programs we consider today.

Secondly, I ask the sponsors, why should the passage of this effort drag down local and State human rights and anti-discrimination laws?

It is ironic that many of the excellent and active religious organizations who support this bill were at the forefront of the laws that are being passed in the States and cities to protect the most vulnerable.

As a former city councilman, I share the chagrin so often expressed by my conservative colleagues about the way we frequently trample on carefully considered local laws. There is no good reason to do that in this bill.

When my colleagues advocate for the bill, I hear no good explanation for that preemption.

Finally, as I said, I do not agree with the theorists that this bill is a subterfuge for a sinister agenda. Some have called me naive in that.

Now after the bill was considered carefully and thoughtfully in two committees of this House, a new section was added which dramatically changes the way we administer virtually every social service program, every housing program, every anti-crime program by permitting a voucher-driven reorganization.

Mr. Speaker, this broad administrative change that impacts \$47 billion of grant programs has no place in this bill.

Fortunately, I can and will vote for the Faith Based Initiative Bill today. I will be voting for the Rangel Conyers substitute which irons out the last of the wrinkles in this bill.

It ensures the best of the desires of this house—increased Federal funding for local religious based programs. And it makes it clear what we already know—there will be no discrimination in hiring.

It preserves state and local human rights laws. And it leaves the voucher debate for another day. Modest improvements that—if made—can make this a bill that unifies this body around the principles that unify this Nation.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE).

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I commend all those on both sides of the aisle who are trying to figure out a way to assist faith-based organizations. But I think, given the nature of the debate, we need to pay due to the devil, and the devil truly is in the details on this important subject.

Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate detail that I learned is that in the underlying bill it allows, it condones, it sanctions an employer to use tax-based money to hang out a sign saying we would like a drug therapist counselor, but no Jews need apply. That is wrong. It breaks faith with what Thomas Jefferson was so instrumental in giving to the world, which is tolerance for religious freedom. The separation of church and State is not because faith is only of small importance, it is because it is of great importance.

Vote for the substitute which helps faith-based organizations but keeps faith with the idea of religious freedom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) has 2¼ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) has 3 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Wisconsin has one final speaker to close.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, a few moments ago when the Speaker of the House said this bill is not a new idea, the gentleman was absolutely correct. The idea of having tax dollars subsidize our churches and houses of worship was debated 200 years ago by our Founding Fathers. In answering that question, they felt so strongly about it that they not only put it into law, they embedded it into the first 16 words of the Bill of Rights, the proposition that religion in America is best served when we keep the hand of government regulation out of our houses of worship.

When supporters of the bill today say we voted on funding of subsidizing religious discrimination in the past and we voted to directly fund churches in the past, they fail to point out that most of those debates were at 1:00 a.m. or 12:30 a.m. on the floor of the House with only two or three Members here on a 20-minute debate. I know because I have one of those three Members.

Mr. Speaker, this bill was wrong at 1:00 a.m. in the morning, and it is